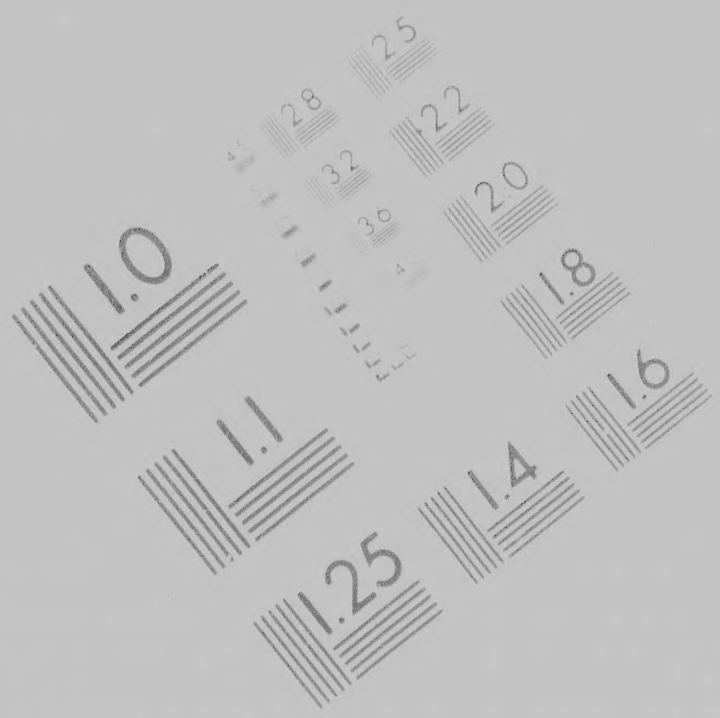

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By the UNITED STATES in CONGRESS assembled.

AUGUST 7, 1786.

An ORDINANCE for the Regulation of INDIAN AFFAIRS.

WHEREAS the safety and tranquillity of the frontiers of the United States, do in some measure, depend on the maintaining a good correspondence between their citizens and the several nations of Indians in amity with them: And whereas the United States in Congress assembled, under the ninth of the articles of confederation and perpetual union, have the sole and exclusive right and power of regulating the trade, and managing all affairs with the Indians not members of any of the states; provided that the legislative right of any state within its own limits be not infringed or violated.

Be it ordained by the United States in Congress assembled, That from and after the passing of this ordinance, the Indian department be divided into two districts, viz. The *southern*, which shall comprehend within its limits, all the nations in the territory of the United States, who reside southward of the river Ohio; and the *northern*, which shall comprehend all the other Indian nations within the said territory, and westward of Hudson river: Provided that all councils, treaties, communications and official transactions, between the superintendant hereafter mentioned for the northern district, and the Indian nations, be held, transacted and done, at the outpost occupied by the troops of the United States, in the said district. That a superintendant be appointed for each of the said districts, who shall continue in office for two years, unless sooner removed by Congress, and shall reside within or as near the district for which he shall be so appointed, as may be convenient for the management of its concerns. The said superintendants, shall attend to the execution of such regulations, as Congress shall from time to time establish respecting Indian affairs. The superintendant for the northern district, shall have authority to appoint two deputies, to reside in

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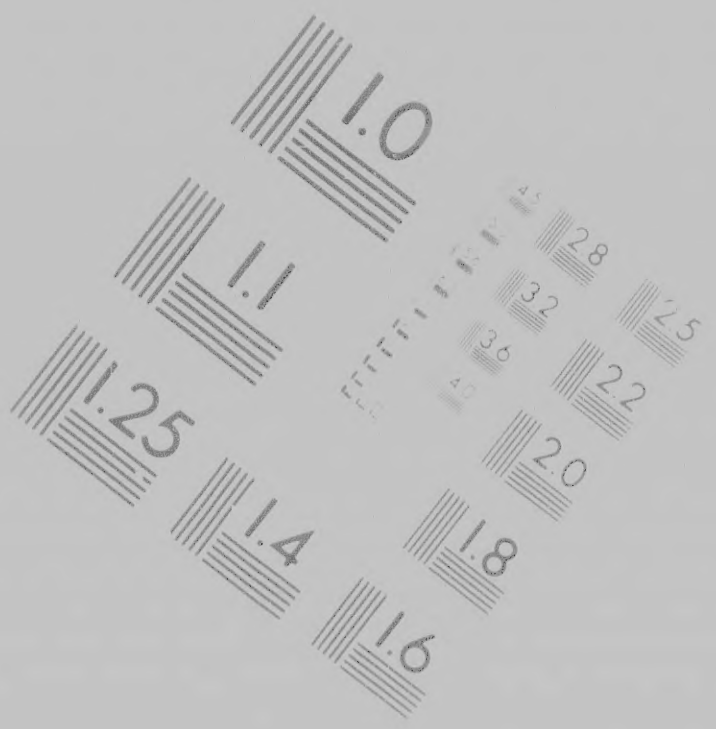

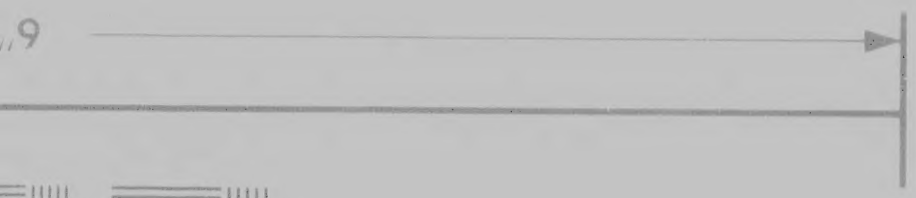

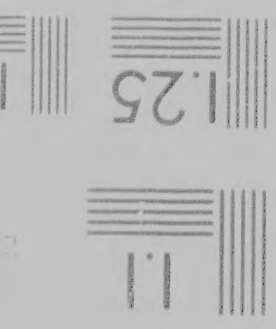

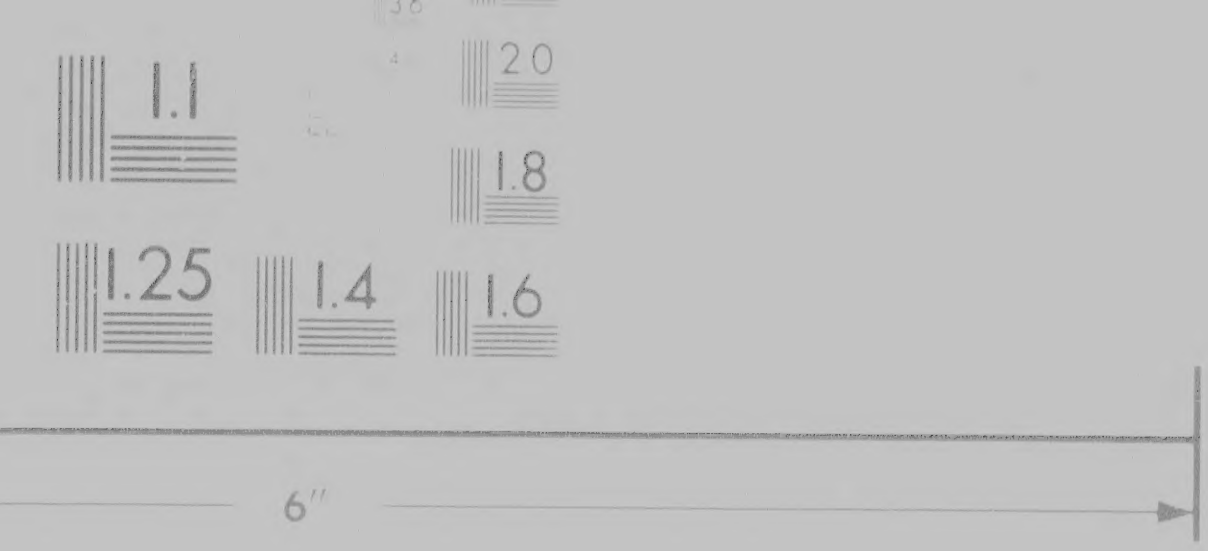

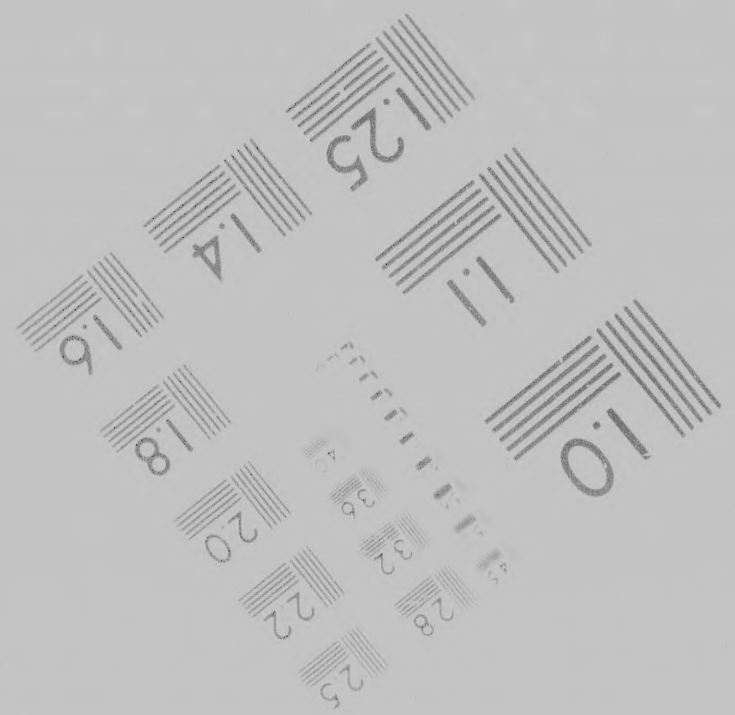

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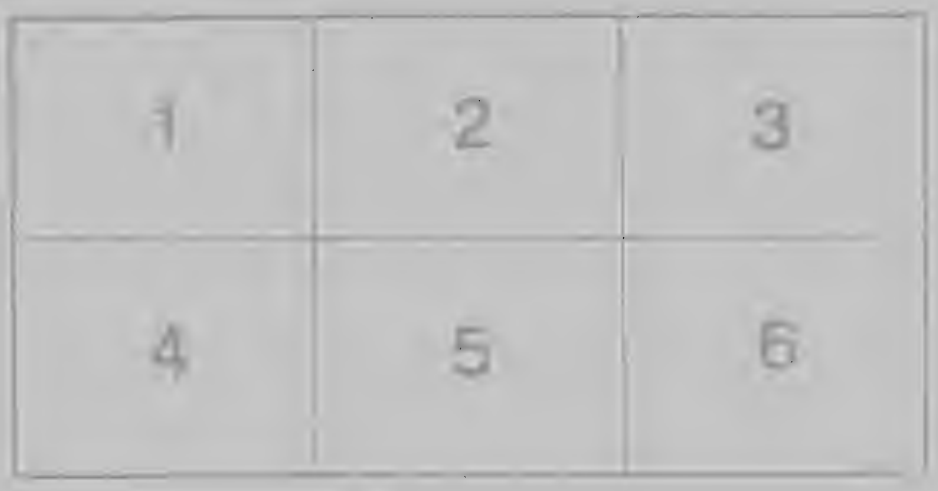

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And be it further ordained, That none but citizens of the United States, ſhall be ſuffered to reſide among the Indian nations, or be allowed to trade with any nation of Indians, within the territory of the United States. That no perſon, citizen or other, under the penalty of five hundred dollars, ſhall reſide among or trade with any Indian or Indian nation, within the territory of the United States, without a license for that purpoſe firſt obtained from the ſuperintendant of the diſtrict, or one of the deputies, who are hereby directed to give ſuch license to every perſon, who ſhall produce from the ſupreme executive of any ſtate, a certificate under the ſeal of the ſtate, that he is of good character and ſuitably qualified, and provided for that employment, for which license he ſhall pay the ſum of fifty dollars to the ſaid ſuperintendant for the uſe of the United States. That no license to trade with the Indians ſhall be in force for a longer term than one year; nor ſhall permits or paſſports be granted to any other perſons than citizens of the United States to travel through the Indian nations, without their having previouſly made their buſineſs known to the ſuperintendant of the diſtrict, and received his ſpecial approbation. That previous to any perſon or perſons obtaining a license to trade as aforeſaid, he or they ſhall give bond in three thouſand dollars to the ſuperintendant of the diſtrict, for the uſe of the United States, for his or their ſtrict adherence to, and obſervance of ſuch rules and regulations as Congreſs may from time to time eſtabliſh for the government of the Indian trade. All ſums to be received by the ſaid ſuperintendants, either for licenſes or fines, ſhall be annually accounted for by them with the board of treaſury.